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If our friends who favor us with manu-  
script and illustrations for publication wish  
to have selected articles returned they must  
in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

TELEPHONE, WORTH 10600.

The Old Freedom—God Bless and  
Keep It.

We congratulate Secretary LANSING

and all the people of the United States

of America on the discovery that has

just been made in the double locked

archives of the Department of State.

With some little formality and a

proper show of respect the original

parliament sheets of the Federal

Constitution of 1787 were taken from

the place of safekeeping where they have

reposed in darkness, untouched and

unseen for eighteen years, and were

inspected officially with regard to

their continued integrity.

It rejoices THE SUN to be able this

morning to report that the Constitu-

tion is all there. The ink is unfaded.

The words can be as easily read as

when first written. The Constitution

is intact. Neither text nor white mar-

gin has been touched or impaired by

the inroads of revolutionary vermin.

The great charter of our liberties, the

great instrument of organized and rep-

resentative government by law as dis-

tinguished from personal and auto-

cratic rule, the great safeguard of na-

tional independence and prosperity,

has suffered no impairment during its

long period of physical seclusion.

It is all there—the Constitution

which GLADSTONE once appraised as

the greatest document ever struck off

by human intelligence at a given time

for a given purpose.

Perhaps the only thing that could

add to the satisfaction with which

this newspaper receives this informa-

tion from the Department of State

would be the assurance that before

recommitting the charter of the Old

Freedom to its air light and light tight

place of deposit for another eighteen

years Secretary LANSING had the wit

and public spirit to carry it across

the street to the White House and ex-

hibit it. In its glorious entirety, to

the author of the "New Freedom,"

now there temporarily abiding.

Building the Bagdad Railway From

the East.

A revival of the Bosphorus and Per-

sian Gulf railway project is announced

in the building of a road connecting

Bagdad with Basra. This was to be

the easternmost link of the great

scheme, and the extension which was

to carry German imperialism to the

Persian Gulf and to the gates of British

Indian empire.

This link, however, in the origi-

nal German project was the part of

the road which it seemed would be

the last to be built. In the German

scheme Kowet and not Basra was to

be the eastern terminus of the road.

The fact that there were indications

that the Germans were preparing to

tribes and has restored the tribal or-  
ganizations disrupted by the war and  
placed them under control of their  
chiefs. A scheme has been devised  
which it is hoped will in course of  
time produce a legislative assembly,  
and an effort has been made to dis-  
cover the choice of the people for a  
ruler. According to the returns the  
chiefs have shown no desire to be  
ruled by any of the former Turkish  
leaders and only a small number have  
expressed a wish for an Arab as their  
ruler. There has been, however, says  
the London Times, a demand for the  
return of Sir Percy Cox, the present  
British Minister at Teheran, Persia,  
who is spoken of as "the best known  
and most popular man of any race or  
creed in Mesopotamia."

The administration has already  
brought a security to life and a de-  
velopment of industries to Bagdad,  
and it aims at the completion of the  
road to Basra as an outlet of the  
products of the Mesopotamian valley  
and an inlet for Western wares would  
thus appear to be but a part of the  
development of this ancient region  
under British influences.

The most difficult parts of the main  
line of the Bagdad railroad have been  
finished; the tunnel through the Taurus  
mountains was completed soon after  
the beginning of the war and the  
Jerusalem bridge over the Euphrates  
was built in 1915. The Turks used  
the road during the war as far as  
Nisibin, and from there carried sup-  
plies to Bagdad by motor and car-  
avan. The completion of this link of  
350 miles evidently awaits the final  
settlement of the fate of Constantinople  
and the adjustment of national  
interest in the Near East. But it is  
as important to-day as it was before  
the war that the completed Bagdad  
railway to fulfil its great purpose as  
a civilizing influence and as a link  
between the East and West shall be  
not a political but a commercial and  
economical project.

The New President of France.

It will be the view of the world out-

side France that the friends of CLÉ-

MENTAUX made a mistake in urging

him for the Presidency, particularly

under a system which does not sub-

mit the election to a popular vote.

The old Premier was already the most

plebeian, the most admitted politi-

cal figure in Christendom. He could

have gained nothing in history. It is

likely, by adding the Presidency to

the laurels already gained as the

director of his country in the war.

He has been a strong man, and in that

very strength, so valuable to France

and indeed to civilization, he perhaps

became politically weak.

The newly elected President, PAUL

DESCHAMPEL, while supported by forces

frequently antagonistic to CLÉMENTAUX,

has been, like the Tiger, de-

voted to France. Eight years ago,

when he was chosen for the third time

President of the Chamber of Deputies,

it was expected that he might be

elected President of the republic in

1913. His public career, and he has

been in politics for forty-four of his

sixty-four years, has been brilliant.

Unpaid Literary Debts of John H.

Watson, M. D.

Few figures in modern literature so

stir our sympathy—stir it even to the

point where it becomes akin to admi-

ration—as does the biography of

Sherlock Holmes. No job outlived him

in patience, no Boswell ever suffered

more at the hands of his hero. Think

of going through life wondering open

mouthed at the intellectual feats of

the great detective, to have your "Mar-

vellous Holmes" met with an invari-

able and impatient retort of "Ele-

mentary, my dear Watson, or to have

your excellent and, as you thought,

helpful suggestion that the murderer

must have been a large man to have

carried the body a quarter of a mile

on his back answered with "Exactly,

my dear Watson. Your reflection,

though profound, had already crossed

my mind."

Think too of what the good Dr.

Watson has suffered at the hands of

a hero who always picked out the

worst of weather to thrust a revolver

into his hand and drag him out into

the open country to crouch silencing

behind a hedge for uncounted hours.

We admire Dr. Watson, but we do not

envy him; and yet we are forced to

say that Dr. John H. Watson has not

done his duty—at least not all of it.

He has killed Sherlock Holmes once

and brought him to life again; he has

led him out to make "His Last Bow."

But there are still stories that the

good doctor knows and hasn't told,

story of the red leech and the terrible  
death of Crosby the banker. Here  
also I find an account of the Addic-  
ton tragedy and the singular con-  
tents of the ancient British barrow.  
The famous Smith-Mortimer suc-  
cession case comes within this period;  
so does the tracking and arrest of  
Huret, the boulevard assassin—an ex-  
ploit which won for Holmes an au-  
tograph letter of thanks from the Pres-  
ident of France and the order of the  
Legion of Honor.

There is an excellent start for a new  
volume, and on reflection it might be  
that the repulsive story of the red  
leech is to be preferred to the report  
of the arrest of the notorious canary  
trainer.

Away back in the early days of Dr.  
Watson's struggles to immortalize his  
hero he confessed to a supply of ma-  
terial which should never be allowed  
to remain hidden. Consider these cases  
from "The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes": The Adventure of the Para-  
doxical Chamber; the Amateur Mendicant  
Society, which kept up a luxurious  
club in a lower vault of a furniture  
warehouse; the Loss of the British  
Bark Sophy Anderson; the Singular  
Adventures of the Grice Patterisons in  
the Island of Uffa; the Camberwell  
Poisoning Case. In the last named  
case "Sherlock Holmes by winding the  
dead man's watch proved he had  
gone to bed two hours before that."

We ought to know more about that, and  
we feel a right to further knowledge  
of "how the dreadful business of the  
Abernethy family was first brought to  
my notice by the depth to which the  
parley had sunk into the butter upon a  
hot day."

How many of Commissioner EX-  
MORPHY's men would not benefit by in-  
structions in what to deduce from  
winding the dead man's watch and the  
necessity of observing the penetration  
of parsley into butter? There is more  
than mere amusement in this. Has Dr.  
Watson the right to conceal from the  
public "the singular affair of the Alu-  
minium Crutch" or to fall to give us "a  
full account of Ricciotti of the club-  
foot and his abominable wife?"

It is possible that on the ground  
of irreparable wrong to the public  
some remedy might be found in an  
application to a court of equity—some-  
thing like a mandamus coupled with a  
subpoena duces tecum that should make  
Dr. Watson do his duty.

Our Presidents as Soldiers.

The opponents of military candi-

dates for Presidential nominations

will say that this Republic of many

wars has called only four professional

soldiers to the chair of the Chief Ex-

ecutive. The natural reply would be

that of the twenty-seven men who

have been President sixteen have been

in the military service; and since the

present Republican party was orga-

nized its every successful Presidential

candidate except Mr. TAFT has been

at some time in the military uniform

of nation or State.

Only two Presidents, WASHINGTON

and MONROE, were veterans of the

Revolution. JACKSON, as a boy of 13,

rode with Colonel DAVIS on an expedi-

tion in the Carolinas in 1779, and

while the experience may have lighted

the martial flame which blazed so

fiercely in him more than thirty years

later, he was not a Revolutionary sol-

dier in the sense of having carried

arms. MONROE, who entered the army

at 18, fought as a Lieutenant at Har-

lem, White Plains and Trenton, and

as a Major at Brandywine, German-

town and Monmouth.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the first

professional soldier after WASHINGTON

to be chosen President, intended to be

a doctor, but as in the case of LEON-

ARD WOOD fate made a soldier of him.

TYLER, who succeeded upon HARRI-

son's death, is not remembered as a

military man, but he was one of the

volunteers for the defence of Rich-

mond in 1813 and headed a company

of militia for a month. BUCHANAN

was likewise enrolled for the defence

of Baltimore in 1814, and served

briefly as a dragoon.

In years of military life ZACHARY

TAYLOR outdid the other soldier Pres-

idents. He had forty years of con-

tinuous service, serving in the war of

1812 as well as in the Mexican con-

flict which put him in the political

front. There was more of the profes-

sional about him than about WASH-

INGTON or HARRISON or GRANT, though

he approached neither the wonderful

strategy of WASHINGTON nor the depth

of GRANT. But he was a fighting

man: "I shall go to Fort Brown or

live in my shoes!"

second battle of Winchester after a  
hand to hand fight with the Confed-  
erate gunners. In the same fight  
McKINLEY—like HAYES a member of  
the Twenty-third Ohio—was breveted  
a Captain for his bravery. McKIN-  
LEY's war record was of the finest:  
four years of constant service, with-  
out absence from his regiment and  
without asking for promotion. If any  
man in the civil war won his majority  
on sheer merit it was he.

BENJAMIN HARRISON's war record,  
while not so distinguished as that of  
GARFIELD, or so sparkling as those of  
HAYES, McKINLEY and, later on,  
ROOSEVELT, was admirable; he served  
three years, his most important ac-  
tions being those in Georgia, with  
SHERMAN. His was faithful, steady  
service, like that of CHESTER A. AR-  
NOLD, who was Inspector-general of  
the New York troops.

LINCOLN, whose name is next to  
WASHINGTON's in the nation's heart,  
had a war record as trivial as WASH-  
INGTON's was magnificent: Captain  
first, by election, and private after-  
ward, by enlistment; but he was as  
frank about that Black Hawk cam-  
paign as he was in all else. The mos-  
quitoes did more damage than the  
Indians.

One Thing Remains Unchanged.

For most Americans drinking in

public ended Friday and the bottom

of the demijohn in the closet at home

is in sight. A few have liquors